

TRAVERSE

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement and respectfully argues that restriction is improper given the nature of the claims cited by the Examiner. M.P.E.P. § 803 states that “if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.”

Applicant respectfully argues that, although the species claims cited by the Examiner may be patentably distinct, examination of the entire application should not require a serious burden on the part of the Examiner due to the limited number of independent claims.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that this response is a complete and thorough response to the Examiner’s Office Action and respectfully requests examination of the application.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful to the allowance of this application, a telephone conference is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

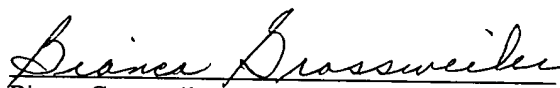


Richard R. Ruble
Reg. No. 45,720
112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2100
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Phone: (210) 978-7700
Fax: (210) 978-7790
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Box Response, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 9-26-02


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